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- ▶ It is possible for a subgroup H to be normal even if $ah \neq ha$ for all $h \in H$ and for all $a \in G$.
- ▶ **Claim 1:** If G is Abelian, then every subgroup H of G is normal.
- ▶ **Claim 2:** Let G be any group. Then $Z(G)$ is normal in G .
- ▶ **Claim 3:** If $|G : H| = 2$, then $H \triangleleft G$.
Remember: Having index 2 means H has only two left cosets in G .
- ▶ **Claim 4:** (from exam) If G is a finite group and H is the only subgroup of order n , then $H \triangleleft G$.

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- 3 (a)(v) Use these to rewrite α_1, β_1 in terms of α_2, β_2 , and work with $\alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H$.

Solutions:

1. Let $K = \{\varepsilon, (2 \ 3)\}$. Is $K \triangleleft S_3$?

Method 1: Use the definition of normality – look at αK and $K\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in S_3$.

$$S_3 = \{\varepsilon, (1 \ 2), (1 \ 3), (2 \ 3), (1 \ 2 \ 3), (1 \ 3 \ 2)\}$$

$$\alpha K = K = K\alpha \ \forall \ \alpha \in K \Rightarrow \varepsilon K = K\varepsilon \text{ and } (2 \ 3) K = K(2 \ 3).$$

It remains to check those $\alpha \notin K$:

α	αK	$K\alpha$
$(1 \ 2)$	$\{(1 \ 2), (1 \ 2 \ 3)\}$	$\{(1 \ 2), (1 \ 3 \ 2)\}$

Since there exists an α for which $\alpha K \neq K\alpha$, $K = \{\varepsilon, (2 \ 3)\}$ is *not* a normal subgroup of S_3 . There's no need to check any other $\alpha \in S_3$.

Solutions:

1. Let $K = \{\varepsilon, (2 \ 3)\}$. Is $K \triangleleft S_3$?

Method 2: Use the *Normal Subgroup Test*. Show that $\alpha K \alpha^{-1} \subseteq K$ for all $\alpha \in S_3$.

α	ε	$(2 \ 3)$	$(1 \ 2)$
$\alpha K \alpha^{-1}$	K	K	$(1 \ 2) K (1 \ 2)$ $= \{\varepsilon, (1 \ 2)(2 \ 3)(1 \ 2)\}$ $= \{\varepsilon, (1 \ 3)\}$
$\alpha K \alpha^{-1} \subseteq K?$	yes	yes	NO!

Since there exists an α such that $\alpha K \alpha^{-1} \not\subseteq K$, K fails the test for normality, and so is not normal.

Solutions:

2. Prove that $A_n \triangleleft S_n$.

From Thm 5.7, we know that $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2} = \frac{|S_n|}{2}$.

From Lagrange's theorem, we know that the number of cosets of A_n in S_n , $[S_n : A_n]$, is $|S_n|/|A_n| = 2$.

We saw Wednesday that whenever $[G : H] = 2$, $H \triangleleft G$, so $A_n \triangleleft S_n$.

Solutions:

3. (a) Let $H = \langle (1 \ 2 \ 3) \rangle$ in S_3 , and consider the left cosets of H ,

$$S_H = \{ \varepsilon H, (1 \ 2) H \}.$$

Define $\alpha H * \beta H \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha \circ \beta H$.

i. Find $\varepsilon H * (1 \ 3) H$.

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon H * (1 \ 3) H &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\varepsilon \circ (1 \ 3)) H = (1 \ 3) H \\ &= (1 \ 2) H \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\varepsilon H * (1 \ 3) H = (1 \ 2) H.$$

We took the coset H and operated it with the coset $(1 \ 2) H$ – but using $(1 \ 3)$ as the representative of that coset rather than $(1 \ 2)$ – and found that the result is the coset $(1 \ 2) H$.

Solutions:

3.(a)ii. **Find $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H * \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H$. Which of the two cosets do you get?**

$$\begin{aligned}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H * \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H &\stackrel{def}{=} ((\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}))H \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H\end{aligned}$$

Again, we found that the coset H – this time using $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ as its representative – operated with the coset $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H$ is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H$.

Solutions:

3.(a) iii. **Find $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H * \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H$. Which of the two cosets do you get?**

$$\begin{aligned}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H * \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \right) H \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H.\end{aligned}$$

Once again, I've got a version of the coset H combined with a version of the coset $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H$, and once again I've ended up with the coset $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H$.

Solutions:

3.(a) iv. **Compare your results to the first three questions. What happened? Was it what you expected, or something different?**

In each case, I had $H * \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} H$, but written different ways. And each time, I found that the result was the coset $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} H$, although it appeared with different representatives.

Solutions:

3.a. v. In general, for this subgroup H , show that if $\alpha_1 H = \alpha_2 H$ and $\beta_1 H = \beta_2 H$, then $\alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H = \alpha_2 H * \beta_2 H$. (This shows that the operation $*$ is well-defined).

Assume $\alpha_1 H = \alpha_2 H$ and $\beta_1 H = \beta_2 H$.

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 H = \alpha_2 H &\implies \exists h_1, h_2 \in H \ni \alpha_1 h_1 = \alpha_2 h_2 \\ &\implies \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 h_2 h_1^{-1} \text{ for some } h_1, h_2 \in H.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 H = \beta_2 H &\implies \exists g_1, g_2 \in H \ni \beta_1 g_1 = \beta_2 g_2 \\ &\implies \beta_1 = \beta_2 g_2 g_1^{-1} \text{ for some } g_1, g_2 \in H\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\alpha_1 \beta_1) H \\ &= [(\alpha_2 h_2 h_1^{-1})(\beta_2 g_2 g_1^{-1})] H \\ &= [\alpha_2 (h_2 h_1^{-1} \beta_2) g_2 g_1^{-1}] H\end{aligned}$$

Solutions:

Assume $\alpha_1 H = \alpha_2 H$ and $\beta_1 H = \beta_2 H$. $\exists h_1, h_2, g_1, g_2 \in H$ such that:

$$\alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H = [\alpha_2 (h_2 h_1^{-1} \beta_2) g_2 g_1^{-1}] H$$

$$(h_2 h_1^{-1}) \beta_2 \in H \beta_2.$$

$H \triangleleft S_3 \Rightarrow H \beta_2 = \beta_2 H$, so $h_2 h_1^{-1} \beta_2 = \beta_2 h$ for some $h \in H$.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H &= \alpha_2 (\beta_2 h) g_2 g_1^{-1} H \\ &= [\alpha_2 \beta_2 (h g_2 g_1^{-1})] H \end{aligned}$$

Since h, g_2, g_1^{-1} are all in H , $h g_2 g_1^{-1} \in H$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 H * \beta_1 H &= \alpha_2 \beta_2 H \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha_2 H * \beta_2 H \end{aligned}$$

Thus the operation $\alpha H * \beta H = (\alpha \beta) H$ is well-defined.

Benefits: We could now check whether the set of cosets forms a group!

Solutions:

3.(b) Let $K = \langle (1 \ 2) \rangle$ in S_3 , and consider the set of left cosets of K

$$S_K = \{K, (1 \ 3) K, (2 \ 3) K\}.$$

Define $\alpha K * \beta K \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\alpha \circ \beta) K$.

$$\begin{aligned} (1 \ 3) K * (2 \ 3) K &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} ((1 \ 3) (2 \ 3)) K \\ &= (1 \ 3 \ 2) K \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (1 \ 2 \ 3) K * (1 \ 3 \ 2) K &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} ((1 \ 2 \ 3) (1 \ 3 \ 2)) K \\ &= \varepsilon K \end{aligned}$$

Since $(1 \ 3 \ 2) K \neq \varepsilon K$, these two different ways of doing the same operation on the same elements gives different results.

From this, we can conclude that with this choice of subgroup, the operation $*$ is *not* well-defined!